(ii) Two dry docks at Netaji Subhas Dock in Calcutta along with an adjacent area have been leased out for ship repair facilities at Calcutta Dock System.

**Proposal to improve National Highways in Bihar**

5598. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to improve national highways passing through Bihar during the current year;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to connect Patna to Muzzafarpur which is at a distance of about seventy five kilometers, with the national highways going to Nepal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. The Annual Plan 1995-96 provides for the improvement works amounting to Rs. 161.00 crores proposed to be taken up on National Highways in Bihar;

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

**Reported poor condition of roads**

5599. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Dangerous roads deter NRI investor's, appearing in the Times of India dated the 9th January, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table the House.

**Delay in execution of work pertaining to National highways 17 and 48**

5600. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the abnormal delay in sanctioning administrative approval and financial assistance, even for the approved works in the Ministry of Surface Trasport;

(b) if so, the number of such works pending execution and since when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in execution of the work of construction of a new bridge across river Netherapathi on National Highway 48 at Panemangalore and a new bridge across river Sharavathi on National Highway 17 at Honnavar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Administrative approval and financial sanction for the works included in the Annual Plans is a continuous activity and is subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority of works. Execution of works by States is followed by a tendering procedure for selection of contractors.

(c) The work of construction of a new bridge across river Netheravathi on NH-48 has been sanctioned and the State PWD have already been advised to award the work to the selected contractor. The proposal to construct a new bridge across river